

CM We claim:

- 1 1. A flexible, reclosable package comprising:
- 2 (a) first and second panel sections defining an interior;
- 3 (b) a zipper closure sealed to each of first and second panel sections along a
- 4 top edge, the zipper closure extending from a first side edge to a second
- 5 side edge and comprising first and second mating profiles;
- 6 (c) a slider device constructed and arranged for mounting on the zipper
- 7 closure and for interlocking the first mating profile with the second
- 8 mating profile when the slider device is moved in a first direction and
- 9 disengaging the first mating profile from the second mating profile when
- 10 the slider device is moved in a second opposite direction; the slider
- 11 device being operably mounted on the zipper closure; and
- 12 (d) a first tamper-evident structure disposed at the top edge and encasing a
- 13 first portion of the zipper closure, the tamper-evident structure having an
- 14 opening exposing the slider device, the opening defined by the tamper-
- 15 evident structure.
- 1 2. The package according to claim 1, wherein:
- 2 (a) the opening in the first tamper evident-structure is a circle.
- 1 3. The package according to claim 1, further comprising:
- 2 (a) a second tamper evident-structure positioned between the zipper closure
- 3 and the interior, the second tamper evident-structure extending from the
- 4 first panel section to the second panel section.
- 1 4. The package according to claim 3, wherein:
- 2 (a) the second tamper evident-structure is an extension of web material
- 3 between the first and second mating profiles.

1 5. The package according to claim 1, wherein:
2 (a) the first portion of the zipper closure comprises at least 80% of the zipper
3 closure between the first side edge and the second side edge.

1 6. The package according to claim 5, wherein:
2 (a) the first portion of the zipper closure comprises at least 90% of the zipper
3 closure between the first side edge and the second side edge.

1 7. The package according to claim 1, wherein:
2 (a) the slider device is positioned within the opening of the first tamper
3 evident-structure.

1 8. The package according to claim 1, further comprising:
2 (a) an area of weakness.

1 9. The package according to claim 8, wherein:
2 (a) the area of weakness is a perforation line.

1 10. The package according to claim 8, wherein:
2 (a) the area of weakness extends along the first tamper evident-structure
3 below the zipper closure.

1 11. The package according to claim 1, wherein:
2 (a) positioned at the first side edge is a first slider stop area and at the second
3 side edge is a second slider stop area.

1 12. The package according to claim 11, wherein:
2 (a) the first slider stop area is a first crush area and the second slider stop
3 area is a second crush area.

1 13. A method of using a flexible package, the flexible package comprising a
2 package body defining an interior; a zipper closure extending along a first edge of the
3 package body, the zipper closure comprising first and second mating profiles and
4 providing access to the interior; a slider device mounted on the zipper closure, the slider
5 device interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating profile when the
6 slider device is moved in a first direction and disengaging the first mating profile from
7 the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a second opposite
8 direction; and a tamper-evident structure encasing a first portion of the zipper closure,
9 the tamper-evident structure defining an opening that provides access to the slider
10 device; wherein the method comprises:

11 (a) removing the tamper-evident structure device from the flexible package;
12 and
13 (b) moving the slider device in a first direction to disengage the first and
14 second mating profiles, thereby providing access to the package interior.

1 14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of removing the tamper-
2 evident structure from the flexible package comprises:

3 (a) removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness.

1 15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of removing the tamper-
2 evident structure at an area of weakness comprises:

3 (a) removing the tamper-evident structure at a perforation line.

1 16. The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of removing the tamper-
2 evident structure from the flexible package comprises:

3 (a) removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package below
4 the zipper closure.

17. A method of making a package comprising a package body defining an interior; a zipper closure comprising a first mating profile and a second mating profile extending

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3 along a first edge of the package body, the zipper closure providing access to the
4 interior; a slider device operably mounted on the zipper closure, the slider device
5 interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating profile when the slider
6 device is moved in a first direction and for disengaging the first mating profile from the
7 second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a second opposite direction,
8 and a tamper-evident structure at least partially encasing the zipper closure; the method
9 comprising:

- 10 (a) providing a package body having an interior surface and defining a
11 package interior;
- 12 (b) attaching a zipper closure to the interior surface of the package body;
- 13 (c) mounting a slider device onto the zipper closure;
- 14 (d) forming a tamper-evident structure over the zipper closure and the slider
15 device with the package body by:
 - 16 (i) sealing the package body above the zipper closure;
 - 17 (ii) forming an opening in the tamper-evident structure, at a first end
18 of the tamper-evident structure, in which the slider device resides;
19 the opening defined by the tamper-evident structure; and
 - 20 (iii) providing an area of weakness within the tamper-evident
21 structure.